(b) and (c) The new syllabi for Mathematics and the Sciences prepared by the NCERT have been introduced in the Kendriya Vidyalayas one year in advance of the other schools. In the All India Senior Secondary Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE in March, 1990, separate question papers were administered only for the Mathematics and Science subjects-one set for the Kendriya Vidyalayas and another set for other schools affiliated to the CBSE. The following steps were taken to ensure that the students in Kendriya Vidyalayas appearing in that examination were not put to difficulties: —

(i) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan conducted 15 in-service courses for Trained Graduate Teachers and 11 for Post-Graduate Teachers during May-June, 1989 to orient them on the new syllabi for Mathematics and Science subjects.

(ii) For giving an idea of the standard of questions to be set in the All India Senior Secondary Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE in March, 1990, the CBSE brought out Sample question papers and circulated them well before March, 1990.

(iii) Special arrangements were made by the Kendriya Vidyalayas for extra coaching in Science subjects and Mathematics. For admission to higher studies, all students clearing the All India Senior Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE in March, 1990 have been treated equally.

Montreal Protocol

1514. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

Ca) whether Government are contemplating to sign the "Montreal Protocol" as reported in Indian Express dated 11th July, 1990. If so, the reasons due to which the protocol has not been signed so far;

(b) which substances are being used in India which deplete the Ozone layer; and

(c) whether any R&D work is being carried out to phase out the use of Chloroflurocarbons and what are the possible substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) (a) The Montreal Protocol on substances that. deplete the ozone layer, has not been signed so far by India as it did not adequately meet our concerns. The recently conculded meeting of the Parties to the Protocol held at London from June 27—29, 1990 has approved certain amendments to the Protocol. In the light of the decisions arrived at in the London Conference, India is considering the issue of joining the Montreal Protocol.

(b) Different compounds of CFCs, HCFC-22, Methyl Chloroform, Carbon tetra chloride and Halons used in India contributs, though to a very small extent, to the depletion of the ozone layer.

(c) The institutions of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are engaged in research and develop ment to phase out the use of CFCs. HCFC-22, whose ozone depleting potential is very small and HFC 134 A are possible substitutes for some uses.

Extinction of herbal plants due to deforestation

1515. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal deforestation is destroying many valuable herbs if so, details thereof;

(b) what was the extent of deforestation during 1989-90;. .